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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Imagery Manipulation, Correction and Enhancement Research

1. Because of your concern (and mine) about the cost vs. results relationship of the research which the Center is funding at the I have reviewed the concept and wish to share with you some general observations.

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- 2. This is a mixture of basic and applied research. By that I mean that it is an exploration both of causes of image degradation and techniques for overcoming degradation. In the course of this exploration a technique called "digital image manipulation" has been partly explored, and the initial findings seem to warrant further exploration in the sense of applied research.
- 3. So what? My point is that this research is only now beginning to change from basic to applied -- which means that we have not yet and could not yet relate the resulting kinds of data to the possibilities of development, much less a measurable payoff.
- 4. You (as I have) could ask: Should the Center be funding research which is so basic -- aimed at an ill-defined problem rather than along a visible road to a known destination? The Center has and, in my conclusion, should sponsor such explorations which will tell us more about the medium in which we are working. Unless we do, we shall not be able to discover worthwhile improvements -- this kind of research would not be done in the foreseeable future without our sponsorship.

National Photographic Interpretation Center

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